

Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program Grant



Federal Funding Opportunity – Request for Proposals

NOAA'S Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program Seeks Partners for Habitat Restoration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service announces a competitive process and partnership approach to provide funding of up to \$1.0 million and technical assistance to research and monitoring activities that address critical project-specific restoration needs based on strong science while applying the ecosystem approach to restoration.

NOAA is inviting applications for funding to establish a 1 to 3-year regional habitat restoration partnership in an Area of Concern (AOC) to catalyze the implementation of a habitat restoration project that benefits coastal resources through improved Great Lakes habitat and water quality.

The Great Lakes are premier national aquatic resources, containing 20% of the world's fresh water. The geography, surface area, and volume of this freshwater resource have national and international economic, ecological and societal importance, making restoration, protection and sustainable use of the lakes a national priority.

Priorities

NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program will work jointly through a partnership, to fund and administer a project in support of ongoing efforts that support community-identified priorities in an AOC, such as:

- Restoring and enhancing critical near- shore areas, tributaries and connecting channels
- Remediating basin-wide sources of stress
- Protecting healthy, functioning areas
- Monitoring ecosystem health

Further examples of restoration projects that can influence habitat and water quality include, but are not limited to:

- Improving coastal and nearshore habitats by re-grading, re-planting or other shoreline improvements or stabilization actions
- Reducing pollution loads such as nutrients, microbes, pesticides, and other contaminants to the coastal areas
- Mitigating lake-ecosystem food-web disruptions associated with aquatic invasive species.

Beneficial Use Impairments:

NOAA seeks to contribute toward a major improvement in a selected AOC ecosystem by partnering on projects that address such habitat beneficial use impairments as:

- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat
- Degraded fish and wildlife populations
- Degraded benthos

Partners

The following types of organizations are eligible if their applications propose to benefit coastal and open-lake habitats in the Great Lakes region. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a match for federal funds requested; the match may include in-kind goods and services. Federal funds may not be considered a match.

- Institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits
- State, local and Indian tribal governments
- Commercial (for-profit) organizations
- Organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments
- International organizations

NOAA's Program

Program priorities for this funding opportunity support NOAA's Ecosystem Mission Goal to protect, restore and manage the use of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources through ecosystem-based management. The program strives to demonstrate meaningful, measurable, and sustainable ecological benefits to coastal resources through habitat restoration. The program aims to strike a balance between a strong regional partner(s) and the scientific strength of NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program in supporting community-identified priorities in an AOC to restore, protect, conserve and enhance coastal and open-lake habitats.

For More Information on NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant, or For Technical Assistance, Contact:

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NOAA Habitat Program
<http://habitat.noaa.gov>

NOAA will soon be inviting applications requesting funding to establish regional habitat restoration partnerships in FY 2008.

Applications must be submitted via www.grants.gov